



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ronald L. Hollis et al.  
Serial No.: 09/736,555  
Filed: December 13, 2000  
For: Instantaneous Price Quotation System For Custom  
Manufactured Parts  
Group Art Unit: 3639  
Examiner: Woo  
Attorney's Docket No. N6732  
Customer No. 23456

**DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. The undersigned Applicants make the following declaration in order to show that the invention which is the subject of the present application was reduced to practice in this country prior to the March 28, 2000 filing date of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/192,552, which relates to Ruffo et al. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0032166. All of the activities described below took place in the United States.

2. Our invention substantially as shown and described in our pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/736,555 filed December 13, 2000 was reduced to practice in the United States prior to March 28, 2000. This was accomplished by placing the system described in the application in operation via the website found at [www.quickparts.com](http://www.quickparts.com) owned by the assignee of the present invention.

3. Exhibit 1 attached hereto is a press release first published on December 15, 1999 announcing the pre-release on that date of the website.

4. Exhibit 2 attached hereto is a press release first published on January 3, 2000, announcing the commercial launch of the site on that date.

5. Exhibit 3 is a "QuickQuote System Flowchart" outlining the system as it was launched on January 3, 2000.

6. Exhibit 4 is a "Web-based System Layout" outlining the information that was on the website when it was launched on January 3, 2000.

7. Customers used the site and ordered rapid prototyped parts from the site, which were made and delivered, all prior to March 28, 2000.

8. Exhibits 5A-5I comprise a series of screen shots of the website as it existed prior to March 28, 2000. These shots are taken from a version of the website that was electronically saved prior to March 28, 2000. It is noted that the July 27, 2005 date near the upper right corner of each screen shot is simply the date the hard copy of the screen was printed for use with this declaration.

9. The following explanation of Figs. 5A-5I is provided to show the correlation between the system represented by those figures and the invention as claimed in the present application:

(a) Exhibits 5A and 5B illustrate the client log-in procedure. The server computer system on which the system was running was accessed by clients from their computers over the Internet, i.e. over a global communication network. These screen shots are the screens as viewed on the client computer.

(b) Exhibits 5C-5F illustrate the procedure for the client to upload from the client's computer system to the server computer system one or more CAD files describing the custom manufactured part which is to be quoted.

(c) Exhibit 5G illustrates the selection by the client of one of a plurality of available manufacturing processes, in this case SLA, SLS or FDM.

(d) Exhibit 5H illustrates the selection by the client of the quantity of parts to be quoted, and the selection by the client of a surface finish.

(e) Exhibit 5I illustrates the display of a firm price quotation for the custom manufactured part as it would be viewed on the client's computer after having been transmitted to the client computer over the Internet. The client could then purchase the part online based upon the price quotation.

(f) The price quotations, as they were generated prior to March 28, 2000, were prepared by analyzing the client's CAD file on the server computer system, without human intervention, to determine one or more manufacturing criteria for the custom manufactured part. Then the firm price quotation was calculated in the server computer system based upon the one or more manufacturing criteria, and transmitted to the client computer. This calculation was performed substantially instantaneously with a pre-programmed pricing formula in the form:

$$\text{price} = a * V + b * H + c;$$

where a, b and c are preprogrammed constants, where V is the volume of the part, and where H is a vertical dimension of the part in a selected orientation.

(g) The selected orientation of the part was selected to minimize H and thus minimize the calculated price. The one or more manufacturing criteria included the volume of the part. The pricing formula included a finish charge dependent upon a selected finish and the surface area of the part. The pricing

formula included a multiple part charge dependent upon the quantity of parts quoted.

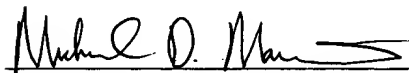
10. We each declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the present application or any patent issued thereon.



Ronald L. Hollis

08-05-05

Date



Michael D. Maurice

5 Aug 05

Date

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING


I hereby certify that this Declaration Under Rule 131 with Exhibits 1-5I is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On 8-9-05.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Claire Ulanoff

8-9-05  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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*Instant Quotes For Quick Parts*

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

- [Quickparts.com launches first RP e-commerce site](#)
- [QuickQuote™ automates RP quoting](#)
- [What our customers are saying about QuickQuote™](#)

## Quickparts.com Announces The Pre-Release Of The First Web-Based E-Commerce System For Instant Quoting and Procurement of Rapid Prototyping Parts

Huntsville, AL., Dec. 15, 1999 - [Quickparts.com, Inc.](#) announced the pre-release of the industry's first Web-based quoting and procurement system for purchasing Rapid Prototyped parts. [Quickparts.com](#) provides the product development community a fully automated e-commerce approach to dramatically simplify and speed up the traditional process of quoting and purchasing rapid prototype parts.

At the heart of the [Quickparts.com](#) web site is QuickQuote™, a revolutionary breakthrough in automatically and instantly analyzing a user's custom geometry right on the web site. QuickQuote™ will read the customers solid model, automatically orient the part geometry for the best quality output for the chosen RP technology (SLA, SLS, FDM), and instantly produce a price quotation and lead-time estimate.

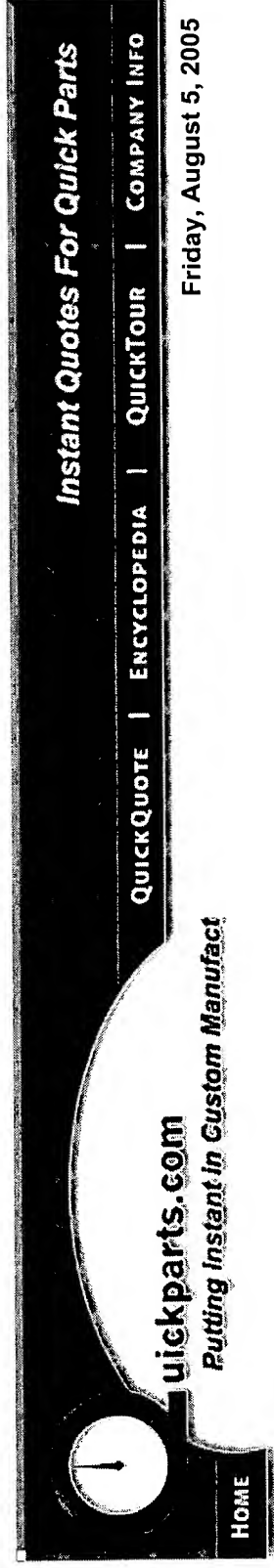
"We have made [Quickparts.com](#) accessible during our Pre-Release in order to solicit feedback from our customers on site content, quoting process, and ordering simplicity", stated Ronald L. Hollis P.E., President of Quickparts.com. "This feedback will help us tremendously, as we will then tidy things up in time for the National Commercial Launch of Quickparts.com planned for January 3, 2000."

### About Quickparts.com

Quickparts.com, Incorporated is a privately held company located in Huntsville, AL. Quickparts.com, Inc., a spin-off of Rapid Tech Engineering, Inc, a provider of product development products and services since 1997, is recognized as the world leader in web-based quoting technology. For additional information, phone (256) 830-8121, or visit the company's web site at <http://web.archive.org/web/20000525221255/http://www.quickparts.com/index.asp>.

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Exhibit 1



- [Quickparts.com](#) launches first RP e-commerce site
- [QuickQuote™](#) automates RP quoting
- What our customers are saying about [QuickQuote™](#)

## Quickparts.com Announces The Launch Of The First Web-Based E-Commerce System For Instant Quoting and Procurement of Rapid Prototyping Parts

Huntsville, AL., January 3, 2000 - [Quickparts.com, Inc.](#) announced the launch of the prototyping industry's first business-to-business E-commerce Web site for quoting and purchasing Custom Manufactured Prototype parts.

[Quickparts.com](#) provides the product development community a fully automated E-commerce approach to dramatically simplify and speed up the traditional process of quoting and purchasing custom prototyped parts, more specifically known as "[Rapid Prototyping](#)".

Rapid Prototyping is a term used to describe the manufacture of plastic parts using a layer-by-layer additive manufacturing process, as opposed to the more commonly known subtractive methods of milling and machining. [Rapid Prototyping](#) enables the rapid production of small quantities of plastic prototype parts, a critical capability for product development companies.

At the heart of the [Quickparts.com](#) web site is [QuickQuote™](#), a revolutionary breakthrough in a automatically and instantly analyzing a user's 3D CAD custom geometry right on the web site.

[QuickQuote™](#) will read the customers 3D CAD solid model, automatically orient the part geometry for the best quality output for the chosen [Rapid Prototyping](#) technology ([SLA](#), [SLS](#), [FDM](#)), and instantly produce a price quotation and lead-time estimate.

The user then simply clicks the ORDER button, and the job of producing the custom manufactured prototype in the chosen [Rapid Prototyping](#) technology is instantly started.

This breakthrough approach to enable e-commerce for the [Rapid Prototyping](#) industry will

Exhibit 2

shave precious time off of the traditional process of outsourcing Rapid Prototyped parts. Engineering time required to obtain various quotes for custom manufactured prototypes is virtually eliminated, and access to the instant quoting and ordering system is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In today's competitive product development environments, time saved is directly related to dollars saved.

"We are simply responding to what the product development market has been asking for, for quite some time now", stated Ronald L. Hollis P.E., President of [Quickparts.com](http://www.quickparts.com). "Our customer-centered market research indicated that the top two needs of the RP outsourcing industry are first, low prices for rapid prototyped parts, and second, fast turn-around time for quotes."

"[Quickparts.com](http://www.quickparts.com) directly addresses both of those needs."

#### About Quickparts.com

[Quickparts.com](http://www.quickparts.com), Incorporated is a privately held company located in Huntsville, AL. [Quickparts.com](http://www.quickparts.com), Inc., a spin-off of Rapid Tech Engineering, Inc, a provider of product development products and services since 1997, is recognized as the world leader in web-based quoting technology. For additional information, phone (256) 830-8121, or visit the company's web site at <http://web.archive.org/web/20000304003305/http://www.quickparts.com/index.asp>.

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# QuickQuote System Flowchart

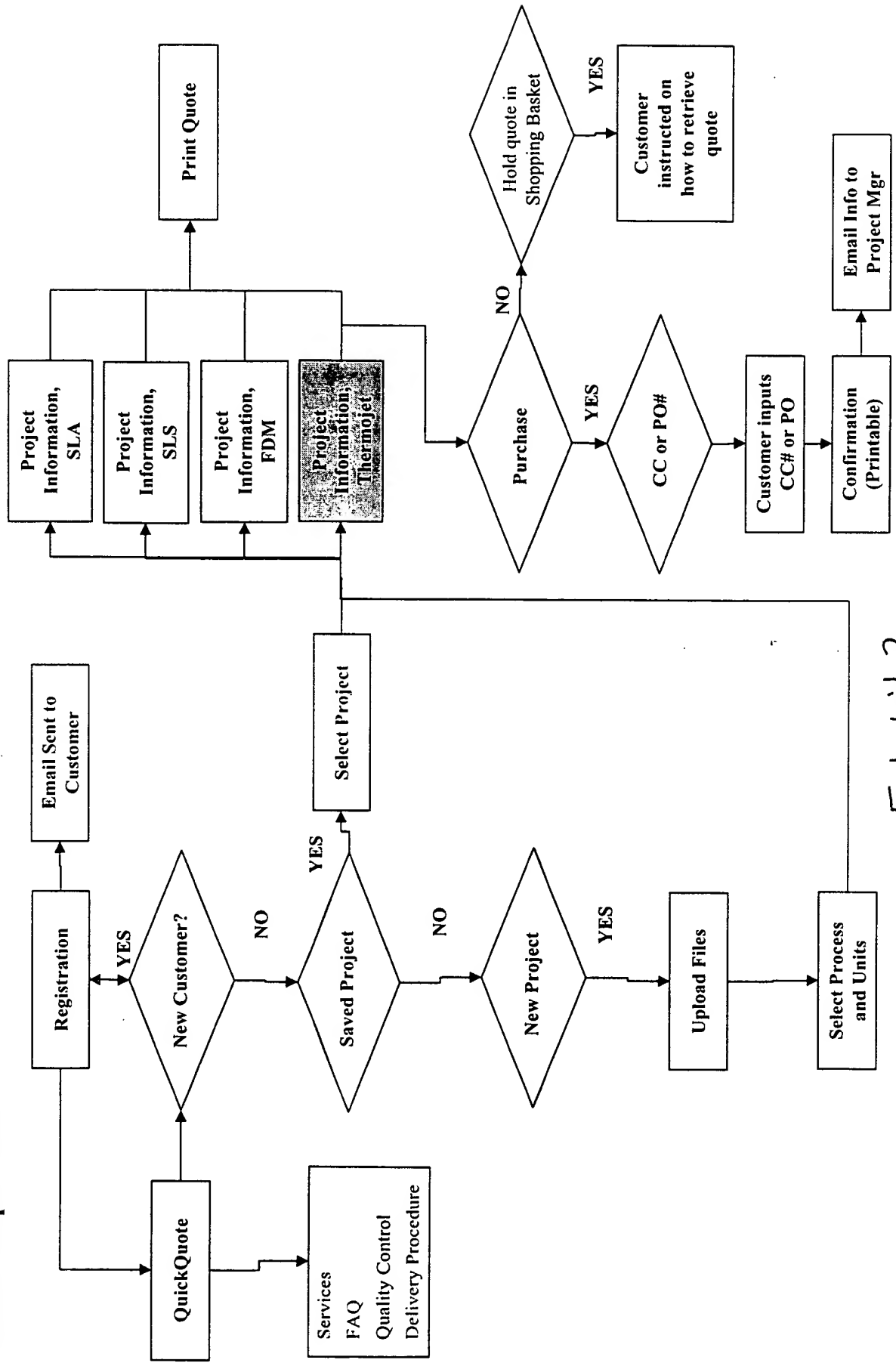


Exhibit 3



quickparts.com

# Web-based System Layout

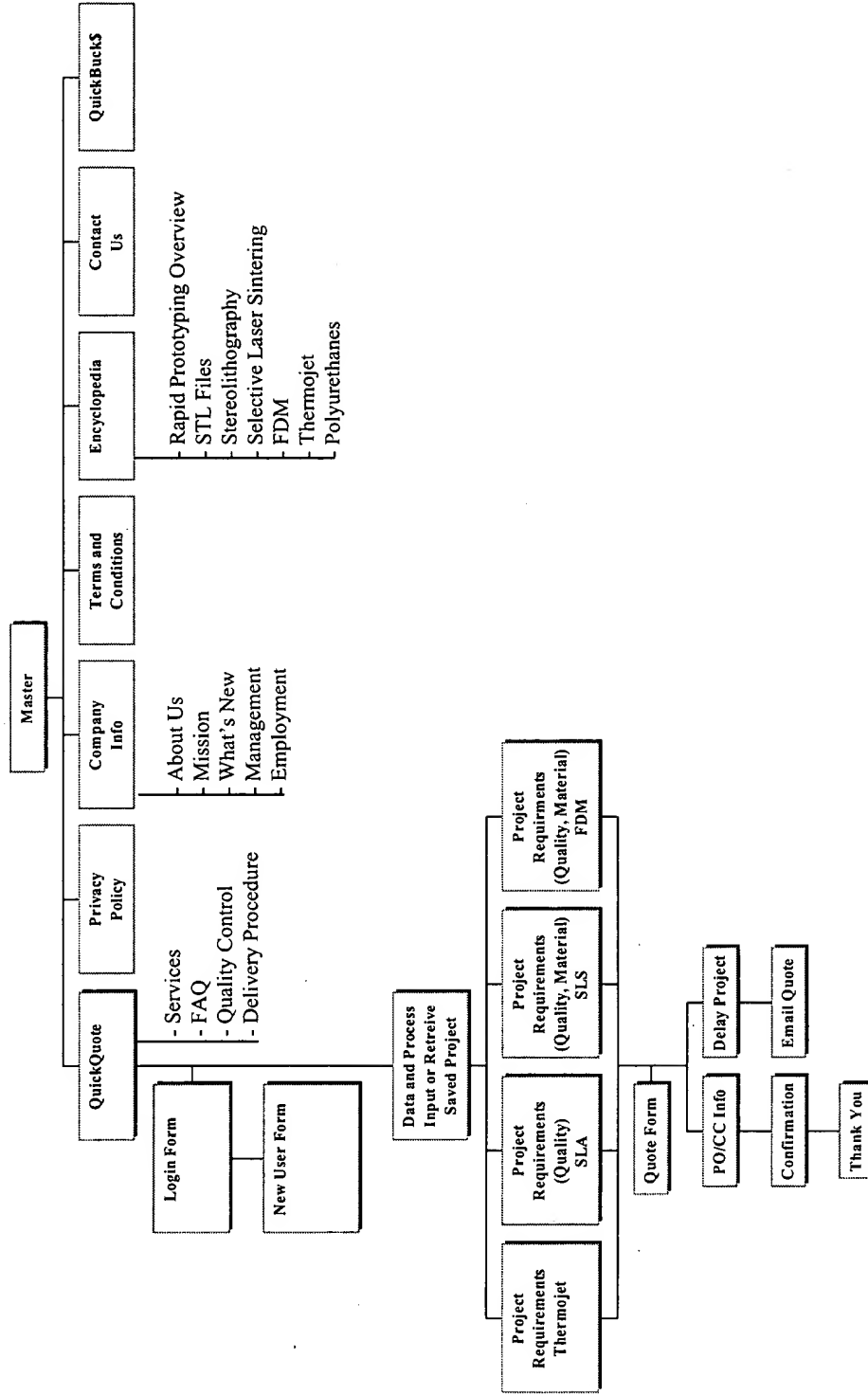



Exhibit 4

# Login to QuickQuote (Must be Registered User)

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Wednesday, July 27, 2005

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## Welcome to QuickQuote!

Email:	<input type="text" value="mmaurice@quickparts.com"/>	You must be a registered user to access QuickQuote.
Password:	<input type="password" value="mmmmmm"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit <input type="button" value="A"/> Reset <input type="button" value="V"/>		To create an account <a href="#">click here.</a>

[Click here](#) if you have forgotten your password.

[Click here](#) to update your User Profile

Exhibit 5A

## Customer Logged In to QuickQuote

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You are now logged in to  
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Exhibit 5B

## Get A QuickQuote by Uploading STL Files

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### Upload STL Files For QuickQuote

#### STEP ONE:

Click the "Browse" button to select the file to upload.

#### STEP TWO:


Click the "Add a File" button.

#### STEP THREE:

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to select additional files for upload

Exhibit 5C

## Browse Computer to find 3D CAD files (in STL format)

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### Upload STL Files For QuickQuote

#### STEP ONE:

Click the "Browse" button to select the file to upload.

inistrator:QUICKPARTS\Desktop\Cube.STL

#### STEP TWO:

Click the "Add a File" button.

#### STEP THREE:

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to select additional files for upload

Exhibit SD

## Upload STL files to Quickparts server



**STEP TWO:**  
Click the "Add a File" button.



**STEP THREE:**  
Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to select additional files for upload



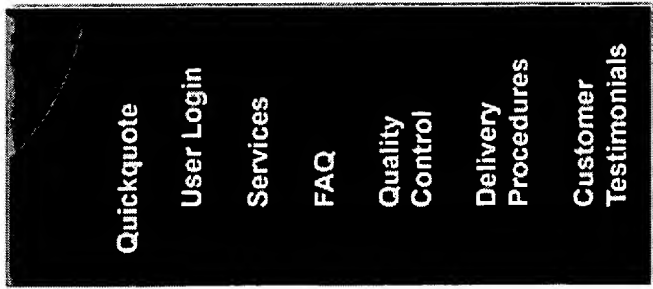
**STEP FOUR:**  
Click the "Upload Files" button to begin the QuickQuote process or click "Reset" to start over.



If you are having trouble uploading from this page, [click here](#).

Exhibit 5E

## Browse Computer to find 3D CAD files (in STL format)



### Upload STL Files For QuickQuote

#### STEP ONE:

Click the "Browse" button to select the file to upload.

#### STEP TWO:

Click the "Upload File" button.

#### STEP THREE:

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to upload additional files for quoting


#### STEP FOUR:

Click the "Continue" button to begin the QuickQuote process or click "Reset" to start over.

Exhibit 5 F



# Select Units of Measure and Manufacturing Process

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## QuickQuote Options

You have selected these files for processing:

Cube.STL

### Select Units

☐ Inches   ☒ Millimeters

Select the type of process to be performed


☐ SLA   ☐ SLS   ☒ EDM

Click to begin the Quickquote process

[Create QuickQuote](#)

Exhibit 5G

# QuickQuote Project Worksheet for Manufacturing Process

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## QuickQuote Project Worksheet for SL

\*Click the Part Name for a dynamic 3D view of the part. All units in inches.  
You must have the latest version of the Java Virtual Machine to view your part.

Parts To Quote							
Part Name*	Qty	Vol	X	Y	Z	GFI	OPT
<u>Cube.STL</u>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	Yes	Yes
<div>A Update Quantity A</div>							

Finish Options	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Standard	<input type="radio"/> Primed
<input type="radio"/> Painted: # of colors: <input type="text" value="0"/>	
<div>A Update Finish Options A</div>	

Enter comments, colors or special instructions.

Exhibit SH

# Instant Price Generation for Manufacturing of Parts Based Upon User Selections

Procedures  
Customer  
Testimonials

## Finish Options

☒ Standard   ☐ Primed   ☐ Painted: # of colors:

[A Update Finish Options A](#)

Enter comments, colors or special instructions.

[A Update Comments A](#)

QuickQuote: \$214

[Activate Project](#)

[Save Project](#)

[Print QuickQuote](#)

[Email QuickQuote](#)

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Exhibit 5 I